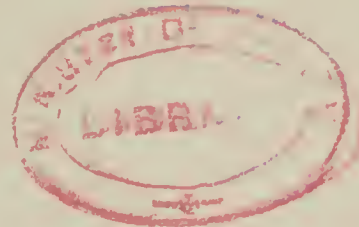


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LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for
the Year ending 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health - Herbert Newsome, M.B., B.S.,
Sanitary Inspector - E. T. H. Hawkins, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
2nd Sanitary Inspector - B. Barker, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the District during the past year. The information therein is, as far as possible, in conformity with the requirements of the Minister of Health, as laid down in Circulars 2314 of 26th March, 1941, and 2604 of 24th March, 1942, in which instructions are given to curtail the report as much as possible in view of increased work in Health Departments and the need to economise in the use of paper.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area:- 46,515 acres.

Population (Census 1931):- 20,378

Population (Registrar General's estimate):- 25,550 to the middle of 1941.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books:- 6,495.

Rateable Value:- £171,608.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate:- £702.

There are no important changes to note as regards the social conditions or general characteristics of the area, except that it is classed as a "Reception Area" for evacuation purposes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M	F	Total	
Live Births:- Legitimate.....	166	150	316	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated popula- tion (middle of 1941):- 12.84
Illegitimate.....	8	4	12	
<u>Total.....</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>328</u>	

				M	F
				Total	
<u>Still Births:-</u> Legitimate.....				4	2
Illegitimate.....				-	-
<u>Total.....</u>				<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
				6	6
				Still birth rate per	
				1,000 total (live and	
				still) births:-	
				<u>17.96</u>	

Deaths:- M 135 F 133 Total 268 Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population:-
10.4

Deaths from Puerperal causes:- Puerperal sepsis..... Nil.
Other puerperal causes... Nil.

Death rates of Infants under 1 year of age:- Total deaths... 14
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births..... 42.6
" " " legitimate infants per 1,000 live births.... 44.3
" " " illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate
live births.. Nil

Deaths from measles (all ages) 1
" " cancer (all ages)..... 37
" " whooping cough (all ages)..... 1
" " diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... 1

The total number of births (328) is 2 more than last year (326).
The Birth Rate (12.8) is lower than last year (14.19). The rate for
England and Wales for 1941 is 14.2.

The total number of deaths (268) is less than last year (289).
The death rate (10.4) is considerably lower than last year (12.5). The
death rate for England and Wales this year is 12.9.

The infant mortality rate (42.6) is lower than last year (49.07). The
rate for England and Wales is 59.0.

CAUSES of DEATH.

Enteric Fever	1	Bronchitis	17
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	Pneumonia (all forms)	15
Whooping cough	1	Other respiratory diseases	6
Measles	1	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	5
Influenza	1	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Acute encephalitis	1	Other digestive diseases	9
Tuberculosis	5	Nephritis (acute & chronic)	13
Syphilis	1	Premature birth	4
Cancer (Malignant diseases)	37	Congenital defects	3
Diabetes	5	Suicide	2
Cerebral haemorrhage & Embolism	30	Road traffic accidents	6

CAUSES of DEATH (continued)

Heart Diseases	62	Other violent causes	16
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	All other causes	18

PREVALENCE and CONTROL over INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Notifications.</u>	<u>Removals to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	82	51	-
Diphtheria	24	24	-
Erysipelas	4	1	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	6	4	2
Enteric fever	10	7	1
Dysentery (Sonne)	6	1	-
Pneumonia (all forms)	33	3	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Measles	446	1	1
Whooping-cough	128	2	1
<u>Totals</u>	<u>740</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>20</u>

There has again been no case of small pox in the Area, but there is always a danger of cases being brought to this country and the great decrease in the number of persons who have been vaccinated is a source of great anxiety to those who are responsible for keeping the country free of this loathsome and fatal disease.

There have again been no deaths from scarlet fever and diphtheria, but there has been a large increase of notifications of the former disease, chiefly due to a rather large outbreak in Yatton (47 cases).

Extensive outbreaks of measles and whooping-cough, both of which have been made notifiable since the commencement of the war, have occurred. The bulk of the cases of both have occurred in Yatton and Easton-in-Gordano, but few villages have escaped altogether. Out of a total of 578 notifications of these two diseases only one death occurred from each of them.

Diphtheria immunization is now free to all and it cannot be too strongly emphasized that every effort should be made to get all children under 15 years of age inoculated. Until this is done, no

great diminution of the number of cases of this fatal disease can be expected.

The number of cases removed to hospital has again increased considerably, chiefly owing to the increase of scarlet fever and, to a lesser extent, of diphtheria. The arrangement with the Bristol Authority to take all cases from this Area has again been a great convenience and the results highly satisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Notifications.....	10	11	1	10	32
Deaths.....	6	2	1	-	9
Removals to Sanatoria...	6	2	-	-	8

There is nothing to complain of as to neglect of notification and there has been no need to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Health visiting and sanatorium treatment are under the control of the County Authority, as are the Tuberculosis Dispensaries in the Area which are at the Central Health Clinic, Bristol, and at Clevedon.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS and DEATHS in AGE PERIODS.

Age periods	Notifications				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.
1st year								
1 to 5 years				2				
5 to 15 "	1	3	1	3	3			
15 to 25 "	5	1		4				
25 to 35 "	3	3		1	1	2		
35 to 45 "		2			1		1	
45 to 55 "		2			1			
55 to 65 "	1							
65 and over								
Totals	10	11	1	10	6	2	1	-

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

A list of members of the Public Health staff is given at the commencement of the report. Laboratory facilities are provided by the County Authority at the County Hall, Taunton. Hospital treatment for cases of infectious diseases is provided at the Bristol Infectious Diseases Hospital by arrangement with the Bristol Health Authority. There is no change to report in such matters as Ambulance facilities, Nursing in the home, Treatment centres and Clinics, or Hospitals, public and voluntary.

The legislation in force in the Area is also unchanged.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no shortage of water in the District during the year. No new schemes have been put in hand or even considered this year, and it is unlikely that any will be considered during the war, apart from the provision of numerous static water tanks all over the Area for the purpose of providing for fire brigade services in the case of fire resulting from air raids.

All public supplies owned by this Council have been examined bacteriologically and all the samples were found to be free from contamination. Steps are being taken to chlorinate the Yatton Parochial Supply.

Seventeen samples were taken during the year and bacteriologically examined. None of the Council's water mains were destroyed or damaged by enemy action.

SEWERAGE and SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

No new sewage disposal works have been constructed during the year and no extensions have been made to existing sewers.

The North Weston disposal works which were installed during 1940 have continued to work satisfactorily and several more houses have been connected to the system.

Two sewers were damaged during air raids, which necessitated the relaying of considerable lengths of pipes.

The question of installing additional machinery at the Yatton works has been considered.

Rivers & Streams; Public Cleansing; Smoke Abatement; Swimming Baths & Pools:-

There is nothing fresh to report in these matters.

ERADICATION of BED BUGS.

One Council house was found to be seriously infested with bed bugs and drastic action was taken to free the premises.

CAMPING SITES.

Many sites in the Area are used as camping grounds, the majority of them only being used at week ends during the summer. Most of the sites are at Redcliffe Bay and Walton Bay, bordering on and overlooking the Bristol Channel. Some of the sites are licensed by the Council under Section-269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SCHOOLS.

There is no change in the number of local schools and all are in a satisfactory condition. School attendance was seriously affected all over the Area and especially at Yatton and Pill by the epidemic of measles in the first half of the year.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the YEAR 1941.

Inspections.	No. of complaints received during the year.....	30
	No. of houses, premises, etc. inspected.....	305
	No. of re-visits to see that work has been carried out or for other reasons.....	112
	No. of houses disinfected, or to which disinfectants were supplied.....	44
	No. of visits to cases of infectious disease.....	63
	Tuberculosis:- Disinfections 3. Visits 3.	
Sewers.	No. of new sewers laid down by builders.....	-
	No. of sewers cleansed or repaired.....	3
	No. of visits to sewage works, cesspools etc.....	150
House drains.	No. of existing houses connected to sewers.....	8
	No. repaired or cleansed.....	9
	No. re-laid (piped).....	-
	No. of new pipe drains laid.....	19
Earth closets,	No. of privies abolished.....	1
Cesspools, and	No. of cesspools cleansed or re-constructed.....	3
Water closets.	No. of new cesspools.....	6
	No. of cesspools abolished.....	9
	No. of new water closets.....	14
	No. of new water closet pans or repairs.....	9
	No. of new earth closets constructed.....	1
	No. of earth closets converted into water closets	-

New houses.	No. of new houses completed and occupied.....	-
	No. of new houses supplied by Company's water.....	-
	No. of new houses supplied by wells or cisterns...	-
Water supply.	No. of samples of water taken for examination.....	17
	No. of existing houses supplied with Company's water.....	6
	No. of new wells.....	2
	No. of wells or cisterns cleansed or repaired.....	-
	No. of dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspected.	56
	No. of bakehouses inspected.....	18
	No. of slaughter-houses inspected.....	-
	No. of factories inspected.....	6
	No. of statutory notices served.....	2
	Ministry of Health inquiries held.....	-
	Legal proceedings taken.....	-

HOUSING.

No dwelling-houses were erected by the Council or by private enterprise.

The majority of the houses subject to demolition orders are temporarily occupied on license or after having been requisitioned by the Council with the consent of the Ministry of Health. These houses have been let as far as possible to persons who have been rendered homeless by enemy action.

1:- Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts...22
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....27
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidation) Regulations 1925 & 1932... 2
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 2
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... Nil

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 2

2:- Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

- (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 20

- (b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action..... Nil

3:- Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

- (a) by owners..... Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

- (a) by owners..... Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 13, & 26 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made..... Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demokition orders..... 5

- (3) (a) Clearance orders made..... Nil
 (b) Number of houses involved..... Nil

- (4) Clearance orders confirmed..... Nil
 (a) Number of houses involved..... Nil
 (b) Number of houses demolished..... 3
 (c) Number of houses to be demolished..... 34

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
 in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... Nil
 (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
 in respect of which Closing Orders were determined,
 the tenement or room having been made fit..... Nil

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD.

The following meat was condemned during the year as being
 unfit for human consumption:-

Beef. 82 lbs.

Slaughter-houses. There are 11 private slaughter-houses, nine of
 which are registered and two licensed. None of
 these slaughter-houses are used for centralised slaughtering under the
 Ministry of Food and consequently are all temporarily out of use
 during the period of hostilities.

MILK.

No. of producers on the Register.....	338
No. of distributors only.....	23
No. of distributors who are also producers.....	60
No. of producers of Tuberculin Tested milk.....	17
No. of producers of Accredited milk.....	31

During the year 67 samples of accredited milk and 56 samples
 of tuberculin tested milk were taken on behalf of the County Council
 and examined at the County Laboratory. 24 samples of mixed milk were
 also taken and examined at the County Laboratory for the presence of
 tubercle bacilli. The presence of tubercle bacilli was found in none
 of these samples.

EVACUATION.

The intensive aerial bombardment of Bristol caused a great exodus of Bristolians into the Long Ashton District in the first six months of 1941. At one time it is estimated that at least 8,000 persons slept in the District each night. Many condemned houses were licensed for occupation and most houses in the District had more than one family residing therein.

In June 1941 arrangements were made for a Rest and Shelter Scheme to come into operation should the coming winter see a renewal of heavy enemy aerial bombardment. Some eighty such Rest Centres were arranged and volunteers came forward to man them. In every village arrangements were made for the Medical Practitioners to be available should it be necessary and the District Nursing Association and Red Cross and St. Johns arranged to provide helpers to attend to sick and shocked people. At the end of the year the medical scheme was carried further and some seventeen Medical Rest Centres were provided throughout the District and equipped as well as could be expected having regard to the shortage of medical equipment.

Although there was a large exodus from Bristol the number of officially billeted persons did not exceed two thousand during the year and this number dropped considerably when no air raids took place during the early winter months.

The usual skin diseases among evacuee children were less numerous than previously although several cases of scabies and impetigo were sent to the Government Sick Bays for treatment. The Grange at Flax Bourton previously used as a sick bay is now a hostel for difficult children for the whole of the South-West Region and is administered by the Society of Friends under the direction of the Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and the Medical Officer of Health of the Somerset County Council.

Again I have no new developments as regards water supplies, sewage disposal schemes etc. to report, and new housing is absolutely at a standstill, owing to the war.

The health of the people throughout the Area, again shows no sign of being seriously affected by wartime conditions, and the sanitary condition of the District continues to be satisfactory in all respects, in spite of the fact that there has been considerable overcrowding in villages near Bristol, owing to the influx from that city and other towns during the heavy air raids in the winter of 1940-41.

The work of my Department has been efficiently carried on although there are now only two sanitary inspectors instead of three, Mr. Teal having left to take up another appointment, and Mr. Hawkins having a considerable amount of his time occupied by his duties as Fuel Controller.

In conclusion may I once more thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence and support given to me in the performance of my duties, and the officers of the Health and other Departments for their able assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT NEWSOME.
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Flax Bourton,
Bristol.
August, 1942.

DISTRIBUTION of NOTIFIABLE DISEASES in the VARIOUS PARISHES of the AREA.

Parishes	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping-cough	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	Totals
Abbots Leigh			1		1	1			42	1	1		51
Backwell	1			1	1	2			26	9			40
Barrow Gurney	1												1
Bishopsworth	11	2		1	1	5				3	5		28
Brockley									3	1			4
Clapton-in-Gordano				1					3				4
Dundry		1							3	8		1	13
Easton-in-Gordano	6	3	1	1	4	13			130	23	3	3	187
Flax Bourton	1		1	1				3	4	1	1		12
Kenn						1			5	1			7
Kingston Seymour		2							15	2			19
Long Ashton	2				1	2			3	8		1	17
Nailsea	4	3				2	1		3	6	3	3	25
North Weston	2						1		3	1	1	2	10
Portbury						1				6			7
Tickenham									9				9
Walton-in-Gordano	1								5				6
Weston-in-Gordano	2								1				3
Winford	4	11	1	1	2	2		3	12	10			42
Wraxall									7	1	2		14
Yatton	48	2							189	35	4	1	279
Totals	83	24	4	6	10	33	2	6	463	116	20	11	778